

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00  
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FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1390  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
AMCONSUL TORONTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUEBEC 0229

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, CA  
SUBJ: IT'S A DIRTY ENGLISH TRICK

REF: MONTREAL 1337

1. IN TERSE FOUR PARAGRAPH COMMUNIQUE PRIME MINISTER LEVESQUE YESTERDAY (JULY 6) DISMISSED LIBERAL PARTY VICTORY IN RECENT NOTRE DAME DE GRACE BYELECTION (SEE REFTEL). RESULT WAS NOT SURPRISING, COMMUNIQUE ASSERTED, GIVEN THE "CLIMATE OF INCOMPREHENSION AND EVEN HOSTILITY" AMONG ANGLOPHONES TOWARDS "BILL 101 AND THE PQ NATIONAL OPTION". IT IS "REGRETTABLE," IT SAID, TO SEE THE ATTACHMENT OF "THE MINORITY" TO AN "OUTMODED STATUS QUO, AND ITS REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN, OR EVEN TO UNDERSTAND, THE EVOLUTION OF QUEBEC," A REFUSAL RECONFIRMED BY THE VOTES FOR "FREE CHOICE" (IN LANGUAGE OF EDUCATION) AND FOR THE LIBERALS. GIVEN THE HOLD THAT THE MINORITY HAS AGAIN ASSERTED OVER THE LIBERAL PARTY, THIS ATTITUDE CAN ONLY KEEP THE LIBERALS IN AN "AMBIGUITY" OF WHICH THE "OPPORTUNISTIC CHARACTER" WILL INEVITABLY LEAD THE PARTY TO NEGOTIATE AWAY THE MOST VITAL INTERESTS OF FRENCH QUEBEC. DESPITE THE OVERALL RESULTS OF THE VOTE, PM'S COMMUNIQUE WENT ON, IT WAS "COMFORTIN TO SEE THAT THE FRANCO-PHONES OF VILLE SAINT PIERRE HAD, BY AND LARGE, SUSTAINED THEIR  
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SUPPORT FOR THE PARTI QUEBECOIS."

2. COMMENT: LEVESQUE'S COMMENT IS OBVIOUSLY AIMED AT TARRING LIBERALS WITH POLITICALLY UNDESIRABLE IMAGE OF BEING A PARTY CONTROLLED BY ANGLOPHONES. HE EARLIER ATTEMPTED, WITH NO DISCERNABLE SUCCESS, TO ASCRIBE CLAUDE RYAN'S VICTORY IN THE RECENT LIBERAL PARTY LEADERSHIP CONTEST TO PRIMARILY ANGLOPHONE

SUPPORT.

3. MICHEL ROY POINTED OUT IN TODAY'S LE DEVOIR THE OBVIOUS CONCLUSION FROM THE ELECTION RESULT THAT UNION NATIONALE (UN) SUPPORT AMONG MONTREAL'S ANGLOPHONES IS DEAD. FACT THAT UN WAS ABLE TO DRAW 19 PERCENT OF POPULAR VOTE IN 1976 GENERAL ELECTION AND, INCIDENTALLY, GREATLY FACILITATE PQ VICTORY BY DIVIDING THE FEDERALIST VOTE, WAS DUE ALMOST ENTIRELY TO ANGLOPHONE AND ETHNIC DISGRUNTLEMENT WITH LIBERALS RATHER THAN THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF EITHER THE TIRED UN OR ITS POUJADIST LEADER, RODRIGUE BIRON. DEMISE OF NON-FRANCOPHONE SUPPORT FOR UN, ESPECIALLY IF COUPLED WITH MODEST SHIFT OF FRANCOPHONE VOTES BACK TO LIBERALS, COULD BE DECISIVE IN NEXT ELECTION. RECENT RADIO CANADA OPINION POLL (QUEBEC 0217 NOTAL) TENDS TO CONFIRM THAT BOTH THESE MOVEMENTS ARE UNDERWAY. THE RESULTS OF THIS BYELECTION, EVEN THOUGH THE ELECTION TOOK PLACE IN A VERY SPECIAL KIND OF RIDING, ALSO SUPPORTS THESIS THAT ANGLOPHONES, AT LEAST, ARE MOVING BACK TO THE LIBERALS.

4. IMPORTANCE OF RELATIVELY LARGE VOTE GIVEN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE DEJONG MAY BE OVERDRAWN. BULK OF ANGLOPHONES ARE NOW WELL AWARE THAT THE DIVISION OF THEIR POTENT VOTING BLOC IN 1976 WAS A CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN THE PQ VICTORY. WHILE MANY MAY BE READY TO AFFORD THEMSELVES THE LUXURY OF ANOTHER EMOTIONAL GESTURE BY VOTING FOR AN INDEPENDENT IN A BYELECTION, I DOUBT MANY OF THE SAME VOTERS WILL AGAIN VENT THEIR SPLEEN IN A GENERAL  
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ELECTION WHERE THE ISSUES ARE SO VITALLY IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY AND TO THEIR OWN INTERESTS.

5. LE DEVOIR'S EDITORIAL ALSO QUESTIONED LEVESQUE'S ASSERTION THAT FRANCOPHONES IN VILLE SAINT PIERRE HAVE MAINTAINED THEIR SUPPORT OF THE PQ. EDITORIALIST POINTS OUT THAT CLOSE SCRUTINY OF VOTING FIGURES INDICATES THAT PQ GOT LESS THAN 900 VOTES AS COMPARED WITH JUST OVER 1000 FOR LIBERALS IN 16 POLLING PLACES IN THIS PREDOMINANTLY FRANCOPHONE DISTRICT. THIS RESULT, HE POINTS OUT, CORRESPONDS WITH THE WEAKENED SUPPORT FOR THE PQ INDICATED BY THE RADIO CANADA POLL.  
MCNAMARA

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROVINCE, BYELECTION  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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